

ALICE

On 11 September, the TUTT extended westward across the western North Pacific into the South China Sea with several cyclonic cells apparent along the trough axis. On the morning of the 12th, a tropical disturbance was identified on satellite data to the south of the TUTT, near 12N 148E. Outflow weakened over the disturbance as the TUTT moved to the northwest rendering upper-level divergence insufficient to induce a surface vortex and stimulate further development. The anticyclone drifted westward with little apparent change until the 15th, when it moved over a small vortex in the monsoon trough near 13N 131E. As this upper-level anticyclone became vertically aligned over the surface cyclone, the system underwent rapid tropical cyclone development.

This system became Tropical Storm Alice on the afternoon of the 16th and intensified to typhoon strength within 24 hr (Fig. 4-13). On the 17th at 1430Z, aircraft reconnaissance data indicated a 32 mb drop in central pressure during the previous 21 hr, and maximum flight level winds of 105 kt were recorded on this eye penetration.



FIGURE 4-13. Alice as a 55 kt tropical storm 90 nm east-northeast of Catanduanes Island, 16 September 1975, 2205Z. [DMSP imagery]

Reduced inflow resulting from the development of Typhoon Betty (1200 nm to the east) inhibited further development as Alice approached central Luzon. At 2000Z on the 17th the typhoon made landfall near Casiguran, Luzon with maximum surface winds of 75 kt.

Alice passed Luzon near 16N, and entered the South China Sea at 0400Z on the 18th with surface winds of 65 kt (Fig. 4-14). Wallace Air Station reported winds of 40 kt with gusts to 60 kt at 0129Z and a peak gust of 42 kt was recorded at Baguio at 0432Z. No significant damage was reported during the Luzon crossing.

Alice continued to a west-northwest track across the South China Sea in response to moderate steering flow along the southern periphery of the 500 mb subtropical ridge. Maximum surface winds decreased to 60 kt at 1200Z on the 18th and Alice maintained that intensity until just prior to striking the Hainan coast at 1800Z on the 19th. Alice was still well-organized as she entered the Gulf of Tonkin with 50 kt winds, but weakened rapidly thereafter and dissipated upon moving inland over North Vietnam.

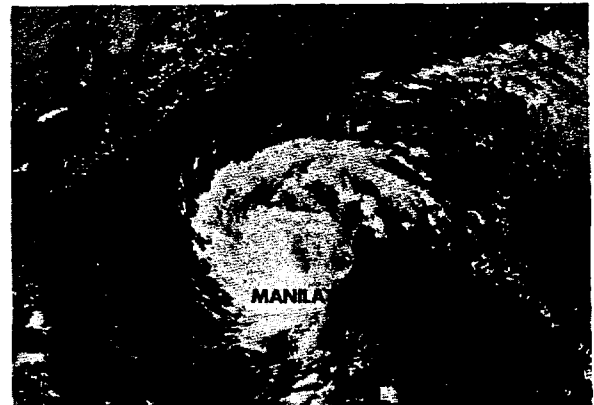


FIGURE 4-14. Typhoon Alice entering the South China Sea after traversing central Luzon, 18 September 1975, 0411Z. [DMSP imagery]